



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

June 2, 2005

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Elk Season Quotas

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The Department's population objective is 800 to 900 elk in the winter herd. The assessment of the field staff places the elk population at the bottom range of the objective, around 800 animals. The anticipated harvest of 118 elk, with the suggested quota, is above the harvests of 2003 and 2004 but remains at a level where the population effect should be modest. More harvest pressure needs to be placed on elk at the perimeter of the range than can be accomplished with the option of December hunters hunting in unit X alone. The addition of the first early hunt since 2001, August 27-31 and September 9-12, in Units L and M is to target those animals. Bovine tuberculosis has prompted boundary changes intended to target and reduce the number of elk that occur east of highway M-33 (Unit C). The quotas are also designed to increase the harvest pressure on elk in unit B while maintaining elk numbers in areas A and D. The desired harvest does not include the potential January hunt period.

The Wildlife Division Chief will recommend to the Director the need for a January elk hunt. The Director, in consultation with the Natural Resources Commission, may issue up to 40 elk licenses, determining the types of licenses issued and the elk management units open for the January elk hunt.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters-Chair • Mary Brown • Darnell Earley • Bob Garner • Gerald Hall • John Madigan • Frank Wheatlake

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Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item will be submitted for final action on July 7, 2005.

William E. Moritz, Chief  
Wildlife Division

Alan Marble, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Armind S. Koch,  
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa  
Chief Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

# **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER**

## **Amendment No. 15 of 2005**

### Authority:

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources ordered that effective July 8, 2005, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### **3.8 Elk license quota, hunters restricted to assigned management unit, exception.**

Sec. 3.8. (1) The license quotas for the August 27-31 and September 9-12, 2005 elk season shall be:

- (a) Elk management unit L, 7 any elk licenses and 20 antlerless elk licenses
- (b) Elk management unit M, 10 any elk licenses and 30 antlerless elk licenses

(2) The license quotas for the December 6-13, 2005 elk season shall be:

- (a) Elk management unit A, 3 any elk licenses and 10 antlerless elk licenses
- (b) Elk management unit B, 15 any elk licenses and 15 antlerless elk licenses
- (c) Elk management unit C, 10 any elk licenses and 20 antlerless elk licenses
- (d) Elk management unit D, 5 any elk licenses and 10 antlerless elk licenses

(3) The license quota for the January 16-20, 2006 season shall be no more than 40. The Director may determine the number and type of license available and the elk management units, as described in Chapter XII, open during this season.

(4) An elk hunter shall hunt in their assigned season and elk management unit except elk hunters assigned to hunt in elk management units A, B, C, or D may hunt in elk management unit X.

Issued this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2005.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

